THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF OME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) to d). Under the provisions of the Swatantrata Sainik amman Pension Scheme, ex-INA personnel who had uffered a minimum imprisonment/detention of six ıonths out side India during the freedom struggle are ligible for the purpose of grant of samman pension as eedom fighters. Their widows who have not since ɜmarried are also eligible for family pension on the trength of the sufferings undergone by their husbands. o seperate statistics are being maintained about the umber of participants in a movement. However, pension as so far been granted in 22,044 cases of ex-INA ersonnel and their spouses covered under the rovisions of the above said scheme.

English]

Reservation for Disabled Persons

641. SHRI PINAKI MISHRA : Will the Minister of /ELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Prime Minister affirmed the ıovernment's commitment on reservation of posts for ıe disabled on the independence Day;

(b) if so, the number of persons so far recruited in ıe Government of India including Public Undertakings; nd

(c) the total number of mentally retarded persons ıd persons suffering from maladies so far provided bs?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT INGH RAMOOWALIA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The information is awaited from Department of ersonnel and Training and Department of Public nterprise.

(c) Although there is no reservation in jobs for entally Handicapped Persons, the information about e number of persons including Handicapped in the ve Registers of Employment Exchanges is awaited ɔm Directorate General of Employment and Training.

Prices of Rifamicin

642. SHRI MRUTYUNJAYA NAYAK : Will the inister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased state :

(a) whether the reduction in the price of Rifamicin ntituberculosis drugs) were recommened much earlier ıereas the final decision in this regard was taken uch later during the last year;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the action taken by the Government in this atter;

(d) whether the Government are aware that the formulators of the said anti-tuberculosis drug were also involved in a number of frauds, causing heavy loss to the Government exchequer;

(e) if so, the details thereof during the last three years; and

(f) the action taken by the Government against such formulators?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SIS RAM OLA): (a) to (c). There has been no inordinate delay in reducing the price of bulk drug Rifamicin and formulations based thereon as the Rifamicin Policy for 1995-96 was under consideration during this period which had a bearing on the announcement of Rifampicin prices. The Rifampicin policy was first announced in June, 1995 and correspondingly the price of bulk drug Rifampicin was reduced from Rs. 5695 per kg. to Rs. 5220 per kg. Subsequently, prices of the ceiling packs of Rifampicin formulations were reduced on 6.11.95 and those for non ceiling packs were reduced on 5.10.93 respectively.

(d) and (e). No such instances has been brought to the notice of the Government so far;

(f) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Misuse of Funds

643. SHRI LALIT ORAON : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether special Central assistance for the 'special component plan' to Government of Bihar has been discontinued since 1994-95 on the ground of misuse of funds;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the action being taken by the Government in this regard;

(d) the details of complaints received regarding misuse of funds by various NGOs during the last three years; and

(e) the action taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA) : (a) to (c). Release of grants to Government of Bihar Under Special Central Assistance to Special Component Plan for SCs was stopped since 1994-95 as it was detected from the details of utilisation of the Special Central Assistance during 1990-91 to 1993-94, furnished by the Government of Bihar in May 1994 that about Rs. 70.50 crores out of the Special Central Assistance released to the State Government from 1989-90 to 1993-94 was not utilised by it for the purpose for which it was sanctioned. The State Government was asked to make available all the

amounts of Special Central Assistance to the welfare programmes for the target group and was informed that no further fund would be released to it till the full amount of SCA lying in the Civil Deposit is released and utilised for the purpose for which it was meant. The CAG has been requested to conduct a special audit of funds given to Government of Bihar under various Central and Centrally Sponsored Schemes for SCs and STs.

As per the latest information from the Government of Bihar received in September 1996, the State Government have released all the amounts of SCA lying in the Civil Deposit and utilised during 1994-95, 1995-96 and 1996-97 upto 19.9.1996. However, it is further observed that a sum of Rs. 6.40 crores is still lying unutilised with the State Government. Similarly the information as to whether the funds released from Civil Deposit have actually been utilised by the developmental agencies in accordance with SCA guidelines is also not available. The State Government has therefore been asked to give further clarifications/ detailed information on the utilisation of funds so that a final decision could be taken in the matter.

(d) and (e). The NGOs against which complaints have been received and action taken thereon are given below :

1. Complaint regarding misuse of funds by an organisation called Pandit Bachhan Panday Mahila Vikas Sansthan Gopal Ganj, which is getting grant in aid for implementing welfare scheme for SCs was inquired into by the concerned District Magistrate and was found that the grant given to this organisation is being mis-appropriated. Therefore no further grant is being released to this organisation. Another complaint received against this organisation regarding misuse of funds given to it under the scheme for Prohibition and Drug Abuse prevention is being investigated by the Government of Bihar.
2. Complaints received against two organisations namely (1) Harijan Adivasi Mahila Seva Sansthan, Distt. Purnia, and (2) Mental Retarded and Psychological Sufferers, Patna, regarding misuse of funds given to them for handicapped welfare, were got examined and these NGOs have been asked to refund the Govt. grant with interest.
3. Grant-in-aid to one organisation called Indira Gandhi Samaj Sevashram, Patna, for running an Old Age Home was stopped from the second instalment of 1995-96, as the CAPART has blacklisted it. No specific complaint has been received against this NGO with reference to the running of the Old Age Home with financial assistance from the Govt. of India, Ministry of Welfare.

[English]

Payment Terms between Super Bazar and Suppliers

644. SHRI JANG BAHADUR SINGH PATEL : Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the payment terms between the Super Bazar and suppliers;

(b) the number of bills pending for payments to the suppliers and the amounts thereof and since when these bills are pending;

(c) whether the Super Bazar is not maintaining payment terms and the payments to the suppliers are delayed unduly long;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the measures being taken by the Government to ensure timely payment to the suppliers?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) : (a), (c) and (d). The Super Bazar, Delhi has informed that they are normally making payments to the suppliers as per the agreed payment terms, which vary from supplier to supplier. The period of payments generally range between 3 days and 45 days. Some times payments have to be delayed on account of late realisation of credit sale proceeds from the Govt. offices and other organisations.

(b) As per the information furnished by the Super Bazar, Delhi the total number of bills to be paid to the suppliers as on 20-11-1996 is about 2000 involving about Rs. 8.00 crores. Receiving bill, processing it and making payment is a continuous process. By this process pending period of bills varies from 1 day to 45 days as per term of the payment. However, due to delayed recoveries of dues from Govt./Semi-Govt. offices and/or on account of objections during processing, payment of some bill gets delayed.

(e) It has been reported by the Super Bazar that to improve the financial management, they are trying to improve sales, introduce computerisation for effective recovery of credit sales and taking inventory control measures like weeding out the less popular brands.

Construction of Godowns in Andhra Pradesh

645. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Andhra Pradesh has sent a proposal for construction of godowns for PDS under the Revamped Public Distribution System areas;